

Please add the following new claims:

--17. (New) A method for acoustical function control in a motor vehicle using a speech input system configured to receive a spoken command and to convert the spoken command into corresponding control signals, comprising the steps of:

activating the system by manually actuating an operating element; and
outputting to an operating person an indication of readiness of the system to receive a voice command by mechanically deflecting from a preestablished position of one of the operating element and a part thereof, so as to directly influence a tactile sense of an operating hand of the operating person.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the deflection is automatically one of ceased and reset, if a readiness condition of the speech input system no longer exists after activation.

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19. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the readiness indication includes a static shape change of one of the operating element and a part thereof.

20. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the readiness indication includes a position change of one of the operating element and a part thereof.

21. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the readiness indication includes a vibration of one of the operating element and a part thereof.

22. (New) A control system for acoustical function control in a motor vehicle using a speech input system configured to receive a spoken command and to convert the spoken command into corresponding control signals, comprising:

an operating element configured for manual actuation by an operating person to activate the system; and

a display device configured to indicate to the operating person, upon the activation of the speech input system, a readiness of the system to receive voice commands, the display device including an arrangement configured to mechanically deflect one of the operating element and a part thereof, the deflection arrangement

operatively connected to the speech input system, the deflection arrangement configured to be driven by the speech input system and to communicate a readiness condition to an operating hand of the operating person in a direct, tactile manner when the readiness of the system occurs.

23. (New) The control system according to claim 22, further comprising an arrangement configured to reset the deflection arrangement immediately after an end of the readiness condition and to act upon the display device.

24. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the operating element includes one of a switch and a key on a steering wheel.

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25. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the deflection arrangement includes a retaining arrangement configured to statically hold in an engaged state a switching organ of the operating element during the readiness condition, the switching organ configured to be engaged by a finger of the operating person to activate the speech input system.

26. (New) The control system according to claim 25, wherein the switching organ includes one of a key and a switch sliding head.

27. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the deflection arrangement includes, as a retaining element, an electromagnet configured to act upon the operating element in one of a force- and a form-locking manner.

28. (New) The control system according to claim 27, wherein the operating element includes one of a key and a switch organ.

29. (New) The control system according to claim 22, wherein the deflection arrangement includes an arrangement configured to cause a vibration of the operating element during the readiness condition of the speech input system.

30. (New) The control system according to claim 29, wherein the operating element includes one of a key, a switch sliding head of the key and a switch installed

on a steering wheel, the vibration arrangement configured to cause vibration of the one of the key, the switch sliding head of the key and the switch installed on the steering wheel.

31. (New) A combined operating/indicator element for use in a control system for acoustical function control in a motor vehicle, comprising:

a control block; and

a deflection arrangement operatively connected to the control block, the deflection arrangement configured to maintain one of the element and a part thereof in one of a mechanically deflected and form-changed state after the element has been activated manually by a hand of an operating person to activate the control system, the state detectable by the same hand of the operating person to signal a readiness condition.

32. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 31, wherein the element includes one of a key and a switch installable on a steering wheel of the motor vehicle.

33. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 32, wherein the deflection arrangement is configured to act in response to the readiness condition upon one of a key, a switch sliding head of the key and a switch to retract the one of the key, the switch sliding head of the key and the switch into a housing of the element and maintain this retracted position during the readiness condition.

34. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 33, wherein the deflection arrangement includes an electromagnet.

35. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 32, wherein the deflection arrangement includes an arrangement configured to cause at least one of a key, a switch, a switch sliding head of the key and a switch sliding head of the switch to vibrate during the readiness condition.

36. (New) The operating/indicator element according to claim 31, wherein the control system is configured for acoustical function control in the motor vehicle using